

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, CY, TU, US

SUBJECT: CENTO SECRETARY GENERAL COMMENTS ON US-TURKISH
RELATIONS

1. DURING FEBRUARY 29 - MARCH 6 ANNUAL VISIT TO WASHINGTON,
CENTO SECRETARY GENERAL BAYULKEN USED OCCASION TO BRIEF US
OFFICIALS AND CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES ON WHAT HE
CHARACTERIZES AS GOT'S VIEWS REGARDING US-TURKISH BILATERAL
RELATIONS. IN ADDITION TO MEETINGS WITH THE SECRETARY
AND OTHER DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS, BAYULKEN MET WITH SENATORS
JAVITS AND HUMPHREY AND WITH DR. BRADY, STAFF MEMBER OF
THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE. HE ALSO
CALLED ON DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE CLEMENTS AND OTHER
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DOD OFFICIALS. AS A FORMER TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER AND

EXPERT ON CYPRUS ISSUE, BAYULKEN GAVE PERSUASIVE, ALBEIT STANDARD, ACCOUNT OF CURRENT MOOD IN ANKARA VIS-A-VIS US ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY ALONG WITH TURKISH VIEWS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS.

2. BAYULKEN SAID THAT OFFICIALS IN ANKARA AND THE TURKISH PUBLIC DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE US IS "PUNISHING" A STAUNCH ALLY LIKE TURKEY. HE NOTED THAT VOICES ARE COMING TO THE FORE IN TURKEY QUESTIONING THE VALUE OF TURKEY'S TIES TO THE US, WITH SOME LEFT-WING ELEMENTS AND EVEN PROMINENT ACADEMICIANS SUGGESTING THAT TURKEY'S MEMBERSHIP IN NATO SHOULD NOT PRECLUDE THE SIGNING OF A NONAGGRESSION TREATY WITH THE USSR. BAYULKEN STRESSED THE NEED FOR CONGRESS TO LIFT THE ARMS EMBARGO "WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS" TO PERMIT US-TURKISH RELATIONS TO RETURN TO A TRADITIONAL PATTERN OF FRIENDSHIP, TRUST, AND COOPERATION. HE NOTED THAT TURKEY'S ATTITUDE ON THE BILATERAL BASE AGREEMENT WITH US WILL BE AFFECTED BY CONGRESSIONAL MOVES.

3. BAYULKEN BLAMED THE GREEK SIDE FOR THE CURRENT IMPASSE IN NEGOTIATIONS ON CYPRUS. HE REVIEWED THE RECENT HISTORY OF NEGOTIATIONS INCLUDING THE DECEMBER TALKS IN BRUSSELS BETWEEN CAGLAYANGIL AND BITSIOS. ACCORDING TO BAYULKEN THE TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER AT THAT TIME URGED BITSIOS TO PERSUADE THE GREEK CYPRIOT SIDE TO COME FORTH WITH A TERRITORIAL PROPOSAL. BAYULKEN NOTED THAT IN THE FEBRUARY TALKS IN VIENNA, CLERIDES REFUSED TO GIVE OFFICIAL GREEK CYPRIOT STATUS TO A MAP CIRCULATED FOR DISCUSSION, THUS NOT FULFILLING THE TURKISH SIDE'S EXPECTATIONS. BAYULKEN STRESSED THAT THIS CLEARLY POINTED TO GREEK CYPRIOT DILATORY TACTICS. BAYULKEN SAID ANKARA IS CONVINCED THAT MAKARIOS IS AGAINST ANY SETTLEMENT BECAUSE HE BELIEVES THAT DELAYS IN THE CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS WILL RESULT IN A WORSENING IN US-TURKISH RELATIONS, FROM WHICH THE GREEK SIDE HOPES TO GAIN AN ADVANTAGE. BAYULKEN SAID KARAMANLIS, WHILE MORE FORTHCOMING THAN MAKARIOS, WAS ALSO INCLINED TO ALLOW THE CYPRUS ISSUE TO DRIFT SO THAT US-TURKISH RELATIONS WOULD REMAIN TROUBLED.

4. BAYULKEN SAID HE NOW HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THE
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CONGRESS WAS CONVINCED THE EMBARGO HAD NOT PROVED EFFECTIVE. NEVERTHELESS, IN TALKS ON THE HILL WITH SENATORS JAVITS, HUMPHREY AND DR. BRADY (HIRC STAFF), BAYULKEN SENSED THAT DESPITE HIS EXPLANATION OF THE TURKISH SITUATION, THE CONGRESS WAS STILL WAITING FOR TURKEY TO MOVE ON THE CYPRUS ISSUE. BAYULKEN WAS PLEASED TO HEAR FROM DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS THAT SOME EASING OF THE EMBARGO HAD ALREADY TAKEN PLACE. HE SAID HE WOULD CONVEY THESE

DEVELOPMENTS TO TURKISH LEADERS.

COMMENT: WHILE WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO KNOW HOW OR WHAT BAYULKEN WILL CONVEY TO THE TURKISH LEADERSHIP ON HIS RETURN TO ANKARA, HIS VISIT HERE HAS GIVEN HIM AT LEAST A FIRST-HAND OPPORTUNITY TO GAUGE THE MOOD IN CONGRESS. AT BEST, BAYULKEN'S REPORT ON HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON MIGHT GIVE THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT A CLEARER VIEW OF THE REALITIES ON CAPITOL HILL. KISSINGER

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